



# FOCAL POINT

SEPTEMBER 2017

## SPRING AND NEW BEGINNINGS

Well it feels like the seasons are definitely shifting with lambs and blossoms everywhere. It is a delightful time of year for photography with beautiful morning and evening light to take advantage of and it's such a pleasure wandering around seeing new life beginning. It is also a great time for reflecting on your photography and what you want to work on or pursue now that the days are lengthening and temperatures are rising. I always find it a good time to de-clutter my photography cupboard, camera bag and thoughts. You may want to consider coming up with a new personal challenge or goal to work on. This will keep you motivated and your photography growing.

On page 6 of this issue there is some information about using Fast Shutter Speed. This is to help with thinking about our October hand in for the set subject which is 'Frozen in Time (fast shutter speed). Hopefully this will get you thinking about how to go about using the technique and what you might want to tell your story about when you make your image.

It looks like the club is set to begin the new mid month workshop evenings next month. These are planned for 2 weeks after the monthly meeting on a Tuesday evening. The idea is that anyone can attend and work on various things they are interested in. It is a hands on evening and there will be a technique or type of photography that will be taught plus the opportunity for groups to get together with their mentors or on their own to practice whatever they like. As the evenings get lighter there is also the opportunity to go for a walk and do some shooting if that is what people want to do. This mid month evening isn't something you have to attend and if you aren't interested, that's fine. You can still come to the regular end of month meeting and see judges evaluations, get updates on what the club is up to, have a bit of social time over a cuppa etc. More information and details to come at the next club meeting.

It was great to see so many of you attend the mid-year dinner and print competition recently at Scholars restaurant at EIT.

There were some beautiful prints and this made for a tricky task for our judge Stu Hastie. We appreciate the time taken to judge them.

Congratulations to our winners

B Grade print was won by Vienne Waterer

A Grade print was won by Rebecca MacDonald

Full results including 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings on page 4.

Happy image making

See you at the next meeting.

Editor

Penny Kennedy

## VICE PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

President Andrew is currently overseas in Asia. His blog shows some great pictures of far away places such as Thailand and Myanmar as well as a good bit of background to each picture.

Other society members have recently been in Iceland and Edinburgh.

No doubt we'll get to see a few of the travel photos popping up in our monthly competition.

Locally I've seen some really great pictures of spring flowers, Tuis in the blossoms and thunderstorms which shows you don't need to travel overseas to get great shots.

What will be true is that all people whether overseas or locally will have learned something new about taking photos.

One thing I've learned in the last four years is that I never stop learning.

That's why it's great to have so many new members recently. As they learn, we continue to learn as well. Whether it's from the questions they ask, from the things that they try, to learning alongside them through training material or trial and error.

Last night it was great to be with some newer members learning the basics and ending up trying out continuous focus. This wasn't something I'd used before or understood so thanks to you all for getting me to try this.

For the first Tuesday learning session in October we thought we'd start with toy photography. This will help with a range of skills from lighting, to depth of field, to composition and it's a bit of fun as well.

It's also something you can do at home on those days when the weather isn't that great outside.

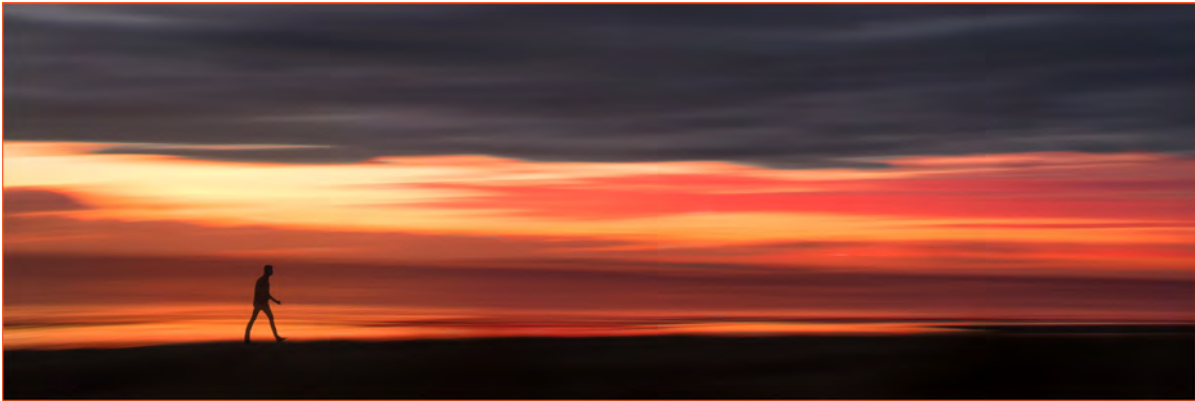
Noel.

## OUR COMMITTEE

Andrew Caldwell	President and Newsletter oversight
Noel O'Riley	Vice President, Website and Technology
Jane Muller	Secretary
Kate Watson	Treasurer
Tom Wilkinson	Monthly judging competitions
Paula Burden	Mid Year and End of Year competitions and Memberships
Rosemary Duff	Mid Year dinner
Mark Dames	End of Year event
Kerry Ganderton	Memberships

Are you a new club member who wants to join our closed facebook page?  
Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/266071540081256/> and ask to join.  
One of our administrators will check your membership and accept your request.

## AUGUST JUDGES CHOICE IMAGES



**B Grade Set Subject**

'Red Sky in the Morning' by Jane Muller

**B Grade Open Subject**

'Lily'  
by Debbie Nicol



**A Grade Set Subject**

'Out Back of Pukehou'  
By  
Andrew Caldwell

## AUGUST JUDGES CHOICE IMAGES

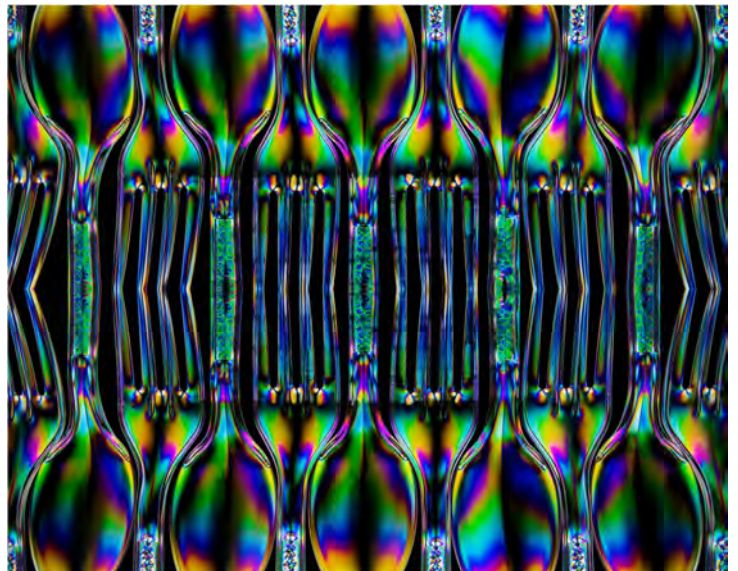


### A Grade Open Subject

‘Recruit Depot  
San Diego’  
by Robin Cranford

### Creative

‘Polarised Table Manners’  
by  
Kirsteen Redshaw



## CONGRATULATIONS

### Mid Year Print Competition Results

#### A Grade

1st Rebecca MacDonald  
2nd Liz Caldwell  
3rd Bruce Coombe

#### B Grade

1st Vivienne Waterer  
2nd Sherryl Neale  
3rd Lester Oliver



## SET SUBJECTS LEFT FOR 2017

### September 26th

Evaluation of: In the Distance

Hand in of: Negative Space

### October 31st

Evaluation of Negative Space

Hand in of: Frozen in time (Fast shutter speed)

End of Points Year

### November 28th

Evaluation of Frozen in time (Fast shutter speed)

Hand in of X

X the November hand in can be handed in at the November meeting on the 29th or brought along on the night of the Christmas party.

There are no points awarded. This is a fun contest only for a prize. The judging is carried out by the members.

A and B grade are together for this competition.

## PIXEL WARS NEW CHALLENGER

Well the last Pixel Wars competition was one of the closest yet with each person winning 3 subjects. So it went to a count back of votes and Penny came out the winner.

Our champion at the moment Penny Kennedy now has a new challenger Debbie Nicol.

**Their 6 subjects are: Red, Bubbles, Abandoned, Feather, Joy and Splash**

Voting on this challenge will take place at the October meeting on Tuesday 31st of October.

Pixel Wars is a competition that runs periodically within our club. The idea is to pit one photographer against the other, push each other outside their photography comfort zones and let the club members do the judging! It doesn't matter what grade you are.

There is a champion and anyone can put their hand up to be the challenger.

Each individual chooses 3 subjects to photograph (completely random subjects, whatever they like)

These subjects are shared with the other person and off they each go and take the 6 photos, their 3 plus the other 3. This is usually done over a month.

The images are then sent to a committee member to collate into a set with no names attached.

At the next club meeting all the club members present get to view the 2 images for each subject projected and vote on which they like best.

After that the votes are counted and a winner is announced, they then become the champion and someone else can challenge them.

## SHUTTER SPEED

Shutter speed is one of the three pillars of photography that make up the Exposure Triangle, the other two being ISO and Aperture. Shutter speed is responsible for creating dramatic effects by freezing action, isolating subjects or smoothing or blurring motion.

In the most basic terms, shutter speed controls the amount of time the digital sensor in your camera is exposed to light. In other words the camera's shutter determines when the camera will be open or closed to incoming light from the camera lens.

“Shutter speed” and “exposure time” refer to the same concept, where a faster shutter speed means a shorter exposure time.

Shutter speed's influence on exposure is perhaps the simplest of the three camera settings: it correlates exactly 1:1 with the amount of light entering the camera. For example, when the exposure time doubles the amount of light entering the camera doubles. It's also the setting that has the widest range of possibilities. Shutter speed is measured in fractions of a second when they are under a second. For example 1/4 means a quarter of a second, while 1/250 means one two-hundred-and-fiftieth of second or four milliseconds. If the shutter speed is fast, it can help freeze action completely. So the shorter time your shutter remains open the more motion it will freeze. The longer your shutter stays open, the more motion it will have time to record and that can create blur.

### Learn in shutter priority mode

Using your camera's shutter priority mode (“TV” on Canon, “S” on Nikon) is a great way to gain an understanding of the effect different shutter speeds can have on your images. Shutter priority mode allows you to select the shutter speed you want while the camera figures out the ISO and aperture for a proper exposure. Spend some time playing with the shutter priority mode to see what happens to your images when you speed up or slow down the shutter speed.

### Shutter speed and focal length

Something to keep in mind when choosing your shutter speed is that the longer your shutter is open, the better the chances of camera shake blurring your photos. This is especially true when shooting with a longer lens. As a rule of thumb, your shutter speed should not exceed your lens' focal length when you are shooting handheld. For example, if you are shooting with a 200mm lens, your shutter speed should be 1/200th of a second or faster to produce a sharp image. If your shutter speed will be slower than the length of your lens, it may be time to break out the tripod. Image stabilization in your camera or lens may also help negate some of this shake.



## AUGUST POINTS TABLE

Member	Grade	YTD Score	Total Honou	Award
Trish J	A	86	9	Silver
Andrew C	A	85	19	Gold
Penny K	A	78	2	
Liz C	A	76	9	Silver
Jillian S	A	71	2	
Noel O	A	68	8	Silver
Bruce C	A	66	11	Silver
Ruth N	A	50	7	Bronze
Tom W	A	49	7	Bronze
Kirsteen R	A	47	16	Gold
Loren O	A	43	23	Platinum
Rebecca M	A	34	16	Gold
Sue M	A	33	0	
Mark D	A	24	1	
Greg T	A	16	3	
Robin C	A	12	1	
John H	A	10	5	Bronze
Colin C	A	0	1	
Darryl B	A	0	1	
Maurice F	A	0	5	Bronze

### A Grade

### B Grade

Member	Grade	YTD Score	Total Honours
Debbie N	B	75	2
Ruben S	B	74	6
Julie M	B	59	8
Rosemary D	B	59	6
Paula B	B	42	4
Sherryl N	B	38	2
Kate W	B	31	3
Vivienne W	B	25	0
Bev F	B	18	0
Kim F	B	16	0
Robyn G	B	14	2
Frances H	B	14	0
Kerry G	B	14	1
Amanda B	B	12	0
Lester O	B	8	1
Jane M	B	7	1
Terry T	B	5	1
Craig B	B	4	0
Allan Y	B	3	0
Michelle H	B	3	0
Ted W	B	1	0
Angela K	B	1	0
Emily H	B	1	0
Leanne G	B	1	0

## MENTORING

### Want a mentor?

Have you ever thought that your photography could definitely improve if only you knew some more things about how to make a good image; or if only you knew what all those manual controls did on your camera; or maybe it's all about how to achieve the results you want in the digital darkroom and post processing? Most of us probably feel this way at some point in our photography journey.

At our club, we offer a mentoring service designed to aid you in getting more from your photography. It is available to individuals or small groups of people wanting to work on the same things. The idea is that we try and pair you with someone who can help with specific things you want to work on. Contact details are shared then you and your mentor set your own programme.

Now that we are introducing the second hands-on meeting each month, there will be opportunities to work with your mentor on these nights or go over work together.

Some of the things we can cover include creating better images in camera, learning your camera, techniques, digital post processing.

The options for what to work on or learn about are only restricted by your imagination or our range of mentors. We have many very skilled photographers in our club with a wealth of knowledge so please see Penny Kennedy at the next meeting or drop her an email: pennyfreestyle@hotmail.com

### Be a mentor

There are many of you who have developed some fantastic skills and experience during your photography journey and our club is the perfect place to share a little bit of what you know. It could be a one off talk or activity at the new hands-on night, or working with an individual or small group to help them learn and grow. You would set your own programme with the other person and it could take many forms, depending on what the objective is.

Mentoring/teaching is a very rewarding part of sharing your knowledge and also fosters ongoing loyalty and growth in our club.

If you think you have something to offer, no matter how small, please contact Penny Kennedy at the next meeting or drop her an email: pennyfreestyle@hotmail.com

## FOR SALE

Zoom lens for Nikon Camera  
Excellent condition, used with the D5000 & D7000  
Now have a Full Frame so no longer required  
(if it didn't crop in the Full Frame I would keep it)  
Sigma DC 18-200mm 1:3.5-6.3HSM Lens (with OS)  
\$250

Dave Langdon  
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